

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

HAZARD ALERT LIVE TOMORROW



On Monday March 16, 2015, an underground Section Foreman was fatally injured while performing a preshift examination of a retreat mining section. The foreman was alone between #3 and #4 entry in the last open cross-cut when a rib roll occurred. He was located between the inby rib and a parked shuttle car. Coal and rock made up the rib material and before breaking up the approximate size of the rib roll was 90” wide by 45” high and 15”-18” thick. The rib roll caught him against the parked shuttle car causing fatal injuries.

SAFETY KEYPOINTS:

- Take down or support loose rib or roof material, always use a proper bar of suitable length.
- All workers should conduct thorough roof and rib examinations in their work areas before starting work and frequently thereafter as necessary to ensure safety.
- Remember that falling ribs can pitch out several feet into an entry.
- All miners should receive regular training on the approved roof control plan and roof and rib control safety issues.
- When taking down loose ribs always maintain a safe line of retreat.